

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for automated rolling and distribution of flexible elongated material, the apparatus comprised of:
 - a supporting framework, the framework comprising means for attachment to the lift mechanism of a motorized vehicle;
 - a motor;
 - a wrapping shaft having a first and an opposite second end, the first end mounted to the supporting framework by mounting means, the second end removably connected to the motor for powered rotation of the wrapping shaft by the motor; and,
 - at least one tensioning roller, the at least one tensioning roller being substantially cylindrical, the at least one tensioning roller rotatably mounted to the supporting framework in substantially parallel orientation to the at least one wrapping shaft.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for attachment of the supporting framework further includes a mounting plate disposed for attachment to the lift mechanism of a motorized vehicle.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting means permit pivoting of the wrapping shaft about the first end.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting means are comprised of a hinge assembly.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the supporting framework is further comprised of at least one guide for positioning of the flexible material during powered rotation of the wrapping shaft.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the at least one guide is comprised of at least one support roller for positioning of the flexible material during powered rotation of the wrapping shaft.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one tensioning roller is adjustably mounted to the supporting framework.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one tensioning roller is comprised of a pair of adjustably mounted opposing tensioning rollers.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the pair of adjustably mounted opposing tensioning rollers are mounted using dynamic tension means to permit adjustment of contact and force exerted between the opposing tensioning rollers.
10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the dynamic tension means is selected from the group consisting of spring-loaded roller mountings, pneumatic roller mountings, and hydraulic roller mountings.
11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wrapping shaft and the at least one tensioning roller are axially mounted in substantially vertical orientation.
12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wrapping shaft and the at least one tensioning roller are axially mounted in substantially horizontal orientation.
13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wrapping shaft further includes means for simultaneously rolling a plurality of flexible elongated materials without co-mingling the materials.
14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the means for simultaneously rolling a plurality of flexible elongated materials comprises retaining means located at preselected intervals along the wrapping shaft.
15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the retaining means are removable.
16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the retaining means comprise a retainer selected from the group consisting of pins, screws, bolts, bars, and tabs, the retainer adapted for removable insertion into at least one aperture provided in the wrapping shaft.
17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the at least one aperture provided in the wrapping shaft penetrates through the shaft, and wherein the axis of each at least one aperture is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the wrapping shaft.
18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the retaining means further includes at least one disk adapted for slidable mounting on the wrapping shaft, tech at least one disk further adapted for

engaging the retainer so as to support rolled flexible material during operation of the apparatus.

19. A method of rolling flexible elongated material, the method comprised of the steps of:
 - providing at least one unrolled elongated flexible material;
 - providing an apparatus, the apparatus comprising:
 - a supporting framework;
 - a motor mounted to the supporting framework;
 - a wrapping shaft mounted to the supporting framework, the wrapping shaft removably connected to the motor for selected powered rotation of the wrapping shaft; and,
 - at least one tensioning roller, the at least one tensioning roller mounted to the supporting framework;
 - threading an unencumbered edge of the least one elongated flexible material over the at least one tensioning roller;
 - removably attaching the unencumbered edge to the wrapping shaft; and
 - operating the motor to engage and rotate the wrapping shaft so as to retrieve the unrolled flexible material and roll the material around the rotating shaft.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one flexible elongated material is selected from the group consisting of fencing, wire, cable, and flexible piping.
21. The method of claim 20, further comprised of the step of adjusting tension on the at least one flexible elongated material by adjusting the tension of the at least one tensioning roller.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprised of the step of folding the flexible elongated material along at least one longitudinal axis prior to the step of threading a leading edge of the elongated flexible material over the at least one tensioning roller.
23. A method of distributing rolled flexible elongated material, the method comprised of the steps of:
 - providing rolled elongated flexible material;
 - providing an apparatus, the apparatus comprising:
 - a supporting framework;
 - a motor mounted to the supporting framework;

a wrapping shaft mounted to the supporting framework, the wrapping shaft connected to the motor for powered rotation of the wrapping shaft; and,
 at least one tensioning roller, the at least one tensioning roller mounted to the supporting framework;
 placing the rolled flexible material on the wrapping shaft;
 threading an unencumbered edge of the elongated flexible material over the at least one tensioning roller
 applying tension to the leading edge; and
 operating the motor to rotate the wrapping shaft so as to distribute the rolled flexible material.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the flexible elongated material is selected from the group consisting of fencing, wire, cable, and flexible piping.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprised of the step of adjusting tension on the flexible elongated material by adjusting the tension of the at least one tensioning roller.